# THE MOON.

## The Shadow of Old Earth on Cynthia's Brow.

## Total Eclipse on Saturday Night.

### ILLUSTRATIVE DIAGRAMS.

Between the evening of the 24th and the morning of the 25th of October the people of this country are to behold a total eclipse of the moon. As this coincidence occurs only once in eighteen years, and as the representatives of science and the press have both been mute concerning its advent, the facts given in this sequel I believe will be accepted with no little interest by all.

HISTORY OF ECLIPSES.

An eclipse is an obscuration of one of the heavenly bodies by the interposition of another, either between it and the spectator, or between it and the sun. The first total eclipse of which we have any knowledge—that is, the first recorded, occurred in the year 720 B. C., and was visible at Babylon. The occurrence was the occasion of great alarm, and, indeed, before the dawn of science, eclipses, both solar and lunar, greatly affected the minds of the inhabitants of the earth.

The ancients failed to comprehend them within the order of nature and regarded them as presages of dire events, while at one time in Rome it was blasphemy, and punishment by law, to talk in public of their being due to natural causes. In ancient times when the rays of the moon were obscured the people turned out and made a great disturbance with drums and brazen instruments, their idea being that the "Queen of the Night" was in affliction, and that by making the noise they did they frightened away those who were tormenting her. According to some, Luna, when in eclipse, was in the pains of labor. According to others she was suffering from the arts of wicked magicians.

All barbarian tribes held peculiar notions concerning eclipses of the moon. The Chinese imagined that all obscurations of the sun or the moon were caused by the attempt of immense dragons endeavoring to devour them, and accordingly, whenever eclipses occurred, they would assemble at street corners, and, by beating upon gongs and kettles, strive to frighten the monsters off. On account of these popular superstitions many parties better versed in science than the common throng which surrounded them, by predicting the coming of an eclipse accomplished many events which we of to-day regard as authentic and historical. By the fortunate occurrence of an eclipse Thales brought peace between the Medes and the Lydians, and by predicting an obscuration of the celestial orbs, Columbus, on March 1, 1504, at Jamaica, procured provisions for himself and his companions, after every other effort to secure such provisions had failed.

THE RANGE OF ECLIPSES.

Stars, planets and satellites of planets may suffer eclipse, but the principal eclipses, however, are those of the sun and the moon, called solar and lunar eclipses. The transits of the lower planets over the face of the sun are partial solar eclipses; but solar eclipses, properly so called, are those caused by the interposition of the moon between the sun and the earth. Regarding the eclipses of the moon, it has been said, and truly said, that they are caused by the moon passing through the earth's shadow. Another assertion of equal importance and truth is that lunar eclipses happen only at full moon. They do not happen every full moon because the moon's orbit is inclined to the ecliptic on which the centre of the earth's shawdow moves at an angle of 5 deg. 9 min., nearly. It may be foolish to remark that in case the Queen of Night moved on the ecliptic there would be an eclipse every full moon, but from the magnitude of the angle of inclination of her orbit to the ecliptic an eclipse can occur only on a full moon, happening when the moon is at, or very near, one of her nodes, or, in other words, when she is at the points where her orbits intersect the ecliptic. Therefore an obscuration can take place only when the centres of the circle of the earth's shadow and of the moon's disc approach within a distance less than the sum of their apparent semi-diameters; consequently, except when near the nodes, the moon, on whichever side of the ecliptic she may be, may pass above or below the shadow without entering it the least. The moon's average diameter is known to be 31 min. 25.7 sec., and from the *Nautical Almanac* we may ascertain the exact amount of the shadow for any hour, its variations all taking place between the values of 29 min. 22 sec. and 33 min. 28 sec.

"THE MOON ITSELF."

The poet Butler would have us believe that the moon is made of "green cheese." Another poet greater than Butler says:—

Oh, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,
That monthly changes in her circled orb!

And so it has been that the moon, with a certain class of people, has fallen into great disrepute, and simply on account of her natural phases, when contrasted with those of the great luminary from which she borrows her light—the sun. "All lunar eclipses are universal, or visible in all parts of the earth which have the moon above their horizon," say the authorities, and no doubt the authorities are correct. All lunar eclipses, moreover, are everywhere of the same magnitude, with the same beginning and end. It is this universality of lunar eclipses that leads people to imagine that there are more eclipses of the moon than there are of the sun. The fact is, however, that the latter is more often eclipsed than the former, *i. e.*, there are more eclipses of the sun than there are of the moon. A sun's eclipse is only visible to a part of the earth, whereas a lunar eclipse, as just stated above, is visible wherever the moon can be seen. The consequence is that there are more eclipses of the moon visible at any particular place than of the sun. The reason why the solar eclipse is visible to only particular portions of the earth is, because being caused by the moon's shadow, it is only to be seen where the moon's shadow falls and the moon's shadow is very much smaller than the earth.

"ECLIPSICAL" CONSISTENCY.

A peculiar fact about eclipses are that they appear in regular order, once only in every eighteen years and eleven days; this fact was discovered by the ancient Chaldeans, and the period is called the Chaldean period. Therefore, the total eclipse which we shall witness on this coming Saturday night took place eighteen years ago, in October, 1856. The total eclipse of 1856 occurred upon October 13, of that year. It was not quite total, the moon's edge being about one-five-hundredth part of its diameter outside of the shadow. By referring to the large figure at the head of this article it will be seen that at this time (1874) the moon's edge is about one-twentieth of its diameter within the edge of the shadow. At each return of eighteen years it will pass more and more near the centre of the shadow, until finally it will pass by the southern edge of the shadow and cease to be total. In other words, 1,000 years hence the eclipse will cease to be total.

OUR ECLIPSE.

On Saturday night a bright, sun-illumined screen will be passed across our midnight firmament; will be blotted out in mid-heaven, and emerge into light again before reaching the western sky—and all for what? To prove to us that the great shadow of the earth is really there in the night; that the mighty cone of shade, based on the circle of the world, rising through the air and through space, is ever poised in the night heavens, and wants but a screen on which to fall to make itself as visible as sunset shadows on a western wall.

With such a screen covering our night sky we should see the world's shadow, like a black sun, travestying the motions of that luminary—rising as he set, setting as he rose—in mid-heaven at midnight, and running high or low as he ran low or high. But, with such a screen, there would be no night. Illuminated by bright sunlight everywhere except at the solitary spot where the earth's shadow fell, the night sky would be as if filled with full moons. So perhaps it is as well, on the whole, that the only screen we have is a small one, and one that seldom wanders into that portion of the heavens pre-empted, for the nonce, by the earth's shadow.

Our satellite thus takes much less time than we can consume when "through the shadows of the world we sweep into the younger day;" but it must be recollected that we traverse the cone at its base, where it is 8,000 miles across, while the moon on Saturday night has but about 5,000 miles to cross, and plunges through it at a speed of nearly thirty miles a minute.

ARE WE TAUGHT?

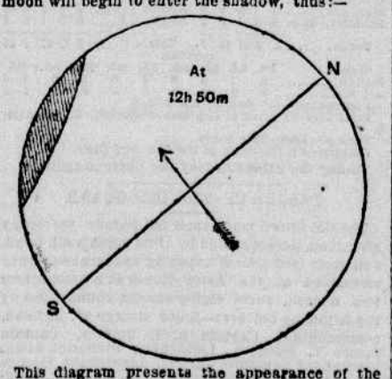
Now, quære, in so hackneied an occurrence as a lunar eclipse is there anything left to be learned—anything not thoroughly understood, the consideration of which may rationally occupy our minds while observing the phenomenon?

Unhesitatingly yes; and it is this: The expression "blotted out," used in the first paragraph, does not, as every observer will testify, correctly represent the state of things; and here is the wonder. The moon is not blotted out. She is there, plainly visible in the midst of the totality, her disc lit up with a lurid glow that enables one still to trace the mere conspicuous markings of her surface.

Whence this light out of darkness? There are but three possible sources—the moon, the earth, the sun. The self-luminous history of the moon was long ago completed. Exposing her materials four times as lavishly (four times as much surface in proportion to her volume) as our own planet to the action of her atmosphere and the cooling influences of space, she ran the cycle of planetary life æons of ages before the earth had entered upon its organic history. Her hungry elements, gaping with their fourfold mouths, drank up her meagre atmosphere, and, subsiding into the apathy of sated oxides or the stupor of hopeless, unsatisfied affinities, left her fourfold, radiating surface naked to the chilling embraces of the "cold inane." Prodigal that she was, she literally burned her candle at both ends, and, in the matter of atmosphere, she laid up nothing for a rainy day. She floats in her orbit—the cinder of a burned up world—white with the salt-incrusted floors of dried up oceans. No life, no sound, no motion, save the crashless fall of warping precipices and the undrifting snowflakes of the "cosmic dust." The ruddy eclipse light must, therefore, derive its existence from some source other than the cold, pale planet it suffuses, and we are left to select between the earth and sun. The mild "earth light" which illumines, and often renders dimly visible, the dark body of the new moon is, however, unavailable for explaining the visibility of the moon's disc in eclipse. The bright side of the earth is, in the latter case, turned completely away from her. To her the sun has set, not behind the hills of her own horizon, but behind the huge planet which figures in her firmament, and which we call the earth. Slowly he has sunk from her view behind the "ragged edge" of the dark planet, leaving her, not in darkness, but in the twilight, or rather partial sunlight, of his disc, still partly visible by refraction above (around) the planet's edge. We earthites know that this refraction is capable of making the sun visible to us when his whole disc is really below our horizon. But our lungless lunarian, looking across the edge of the earth's apparent disc, enjoys the refractive use of this atmosphere twice as compared with him who is immersed in it.

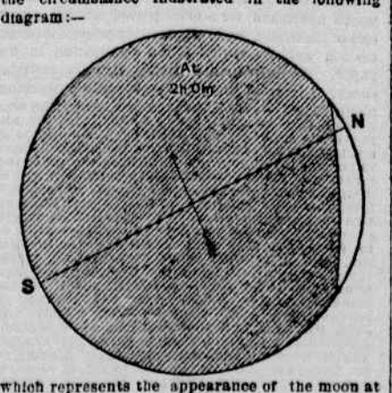
THE TOTAL VEIL.

The total eclipse of the moon, which, with proper atmospheric conditions, we are to witness on Saturday night, will begin at 11:48, at which hour the moon will enter the penumbra. The effect of the penumbra will in all probability be nearly indiscernable, as the moon's radiance after the penumbral shadow has passed over it will be nearly as brilliant as before. At 12:50 P. M., however, the moon will begin to enter the shadow, thus:—



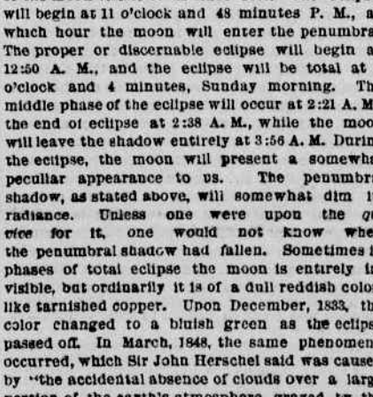

This diagram presents the appearance of the moon at ten minutes to one o'clock on Sunday morning, October 25, just after the commencement of the eclipse. It shows the edge of the shadow where it is first seen. The direction of the moon's axis is shown by the line marking its north and south poles; and the arrow represents the direction of the moon's motion, the shadow remaining relatively stationary.

After this hour it will be seen that the shadow silently creeps upon the moon's broad surface, and the observer, if he is patient, will notice the circumstance illustrated in the following diagram:—

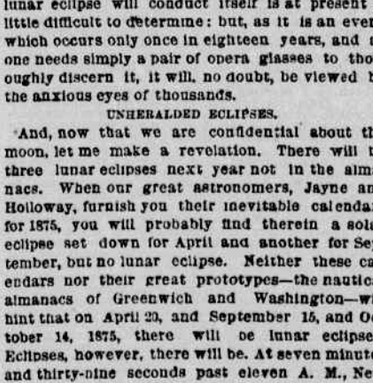



which represents the appearance of the moon at two o'clock, just before the eclipse becomes total. In this figure nearly the whole moon is covered by the shadow, and that portion of the moon will not be visible in the heavens. All that will be seen will be the short crescent.

After the moon has been totally eclipsed it will begin to emerge gradually from the shadow, when, at the hour indicated in the cut, it will present the following appearance:—




Until finally the shadow will have almost gone, the appearance of the moon during the last moments of the eclipse being as follows:—




**Recapitulation.**

The eclipse of October 25 is the first total eclipse of the moon visible to us since 1856. The eclipse will begin at 11 o'clock and 48 minutes P. M., at which hour the moon will enter the penumbra. The proper or discernable eclipse will begin at 12:50 A. M., and the eclipse will be total at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes, Sunday morning. The middle phase of the eclipse will occur at 2:21 A. M., the end of eclipse at 2:38 A. M., while the moon will leave the shadow entirely at 3:56 A. M. During the eclipse, the moon will present a somewhat peculiar appearance to us. The penumbral shadow, as stated above, will somewhat dim its radiance. Unless one were upon the *qui vive* for it, one would not know when the penumbral shadow had fallen. Sometimes in phases of total eclipse the moon is entirely invisible, but ordinarily it is of a dull reddish color, like tarnished copper. Upon December, 1833, the color changed to a bluish green as the eclipse passed off. In March, 1848, the same phenomena occurred, which Sir John Herschel said was caused by "the accidental absence of clouds over a large portion of the earth's atmosphere, grazed by the sun's rays at the time." Exactly how our total lunar eclipse will conduct itself is at present a little difficult to determine: but, as it is an event which occurs only once in eighteen years, and as one needs simply a pair of opera glasses to thoroughly discern it, it will, no doubt, be viewed by the anxious eyes of thousands.

UNHERALDED ECLIPSES.

And, now that we are confidential about the moon, let me make a revelation. There will be three lunar eclipses next year not in the almanacs. When our great astronomers, Jayne and Holloway, furnish you their inevitable calendars for 1875, you will probably find therein a solar eclipse set down for April and another for September, but no lunar eclipse. Neither these calendars nor their great prototypes—the nautical almanacs of Greenwich and Washington—will hint that on April 20, and September 15, and October 14, 1875, there will be lunar eclipses. Eclipses, however, there will be. At seven minutes and thirty-nine seconds past eleven A. M., New York time, on the 20th of April, 1875, the full moon will be more than half immersed in the earth's penumbra. At 51 minutes and 54 seconds past 7 A. M., New York time, on the 15th of September, 1875, the full moon will be immersed about two digits in the earth's penumbra. At 37 minutes and 43 seconds past 5 P. M., New York time, on the 14th of October, 1875, the full moon will be immersed more than eight digits in the earth's penumbra.

On two of these occasions the moon will be on the other side of the world; but, on the evening of October 14, those persons here who have facilities for viewing the rising full moon will probably observe a faint shading on her southern side for some time after rising as the twilight dies out. If so, they will have seen an eclipse not set down in the books, which is something in this century where "all's known."

## "YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE!"

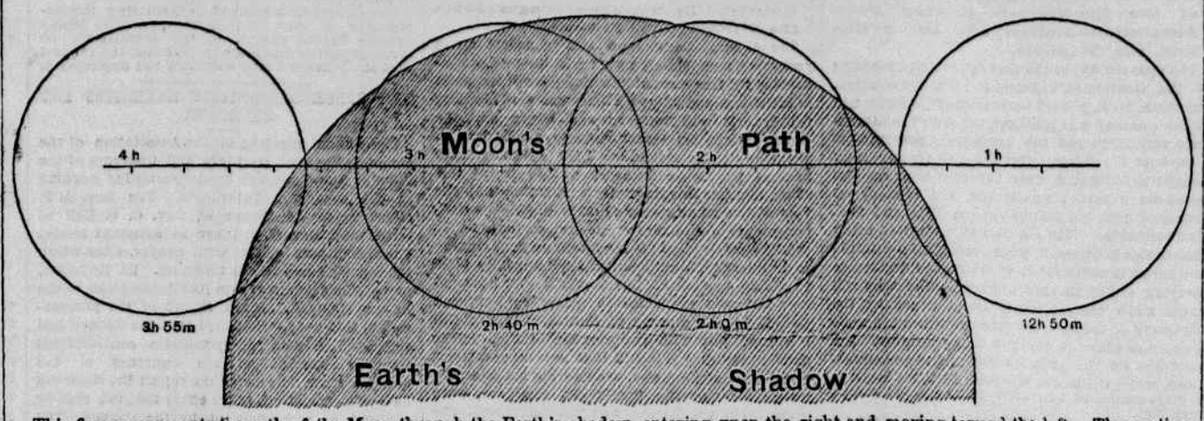
### Exploits of the Long Island Highwaymen.

Two well known residents of Flushing, George H. Lott and William Smith, visited Jamaica on Tuesday in a carriage and started to return home in the evening. When they reached the ascent of a hill on Flushing, near Hillside avenue, within the limits of Jamaica village, three men, wearing masks, suddenly sprung from a clump of bushes at the roadside, and one of them attempted to catch the horse by the head, but the animal shied and thus prevented the villain from seizing the bridle, while another struck at Mr. Lott's head with a slungshot or a stone tied in a handkerchief, but fortunately hit Mr. Lott on the shoulder instead. Almost in the same moment Mr. Smith drew a pistol and discharged it at the one who attempted to stop the horse, evidently with good effect, as the highwayman cried, "Oh, I'm shot!" and his companions hurried him away into the woods. Mr. Smith then put the whip to the horse and the gentlemen arrived home without further molestation.

A similar occurrence, but with different results and which has only just come to the knowledge of the authorities, took place on Sunday evening last. Just before sundown a gentleman and his wife, while driving on the Hoffman boulevard, near Jamaica village, were stopped by two highwaymen who, with drawn pistols, demanded the gentleman's watch and money. These were handed over, when the robbers, not yet satisfied, also compelled the woman to give up her earrings and finger rings, and the couple were then permitted to go on their way. Upon arriving at Jamaica the gentleman related the occurrence, but made no complaint to the authorities.

This makes three attempts at highway robbery, two of which have been successful, which have occurred in the same neighborhood within a few days, and they are all believed to have been the work of an organized gang who have their headquarters and hiding place somewhere in the woods between Jamaica and Flushing. The authorities propose to send out a searching party to scour the woods in all directions.

# A DIAGRAM OF THE LUNAR ECLIPSE.




This figure represents the path of the Moon through the Earth's shadow, entering upon the right and moving toward the left. The portion of the Moon's centre is shown for every ten minutes during the whole eclipse, and the position of the Moon at the four times separately declinated in the figure, 1 to 4. By means of this figure the appearance of the Moon at any other moment may be readily ascertained by drawing a circle to represent the Moon with the centre at the point corresponding to the given time. But to correspond with the position in the heavens the Moon's axis, which is perpendicular in the figure, must be inclined as upon the smaller figures, by turning the top of the paper toward the right.

## GOVERNOR DIX ON THE THIRD TERM

### Our Veteran Governor Speaks at Last.

### OPPOSED TO THE THIRD TERM.

Governor Dix was in the city yesterday, and left in the afternoon for Albany. Previous to his departure he was visited by a HERALD representative, whom he greeted with his usual cordiality. Governor Dix was evidently in excellent spirits, and to judge from his hearty and decidedly jolly appearance was in no wise troubled about the result of the great and serious contest in which he is engaged. Some gentlemen who had seen the Governor on business, and whom he dismissed in his kindly manner, accompanying them to the door, congratulated him good naturedly on his renomination, and expressed the hope to see him triumphantly elected. Governor Dix's answer was quite characteristic. He laughed heartily, and said, in his off-handed way, "Oh, you know that nobody can tell until after the election

WHO IS TO BE THE NEXT GOVERNOR."

"Governor," began the HERALD reporter, when the first exchange of introductory remarks was over, "I came to see if you could give me any news about the progress of the canvass."

"No," replied the Governor, assuming a business-like air; "I really cannot. I know nothing more about it than I have gleaned from the newspapers." And he added, with a smile, "I must refer you to the columns of the HERALD for any news."

"Governor, I have seen it stated in the newspapers that you intend to deliver a speech in opposition to the third term on the occasion of a serenade?"

The Governor smiled, with an expression of incredulity. "Well, it is funny how these statements get into the newspapers. I don't know where the *Tribune* got that. I am quite at a loss to tell."

"Am I to understand you, Governor, as saying that you intend to deliver no such speech on any such occasion?"

NO NEED OF EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS.

"Oh no," the Governor replied in an emphatic tone, "I have never thought of doing any such thing. I have no reason to suppose that anybody thinks I am in favor of a third term for General Grant, and hence it would be ridiculous for me to take such a step."

"Do you think most people regard you as being opposed to the third term, Governor?"

"Ay," the Governor answered, "I have every reason to suppose so. I have spoken very freely on the subject to my friends, but as to any public declaration of my views—why, nobody has asked me for them." And after a pause the Governor added, with a good-natured smile, "That is, nobody but the interviewers."

"If any respectable body of your constituents were to address you a letter requesting a public response, would you answer it, Governor?"

"Most undoubtedly," was Governor Dix's reply. "If any of my constituents were to address me such a letter I should gladly answer it, stating my views as opposed to the third term."

"Do you think General Grant desires a third term of office, Governor?"

"No, certainly not. Why the President's friends have declared publicly that General Grant has not the slightest intention

OF RUNNING FOR A THIRD TERM.

There is Judge Pierrepont, for instance, one of the President's warm friends, who states emphatically that General Grant does not desire a third term, and, what is more, that even his supporters and friends do not wish it."

"And if General Grant desired a third term do you think, Governor, that the republican party, in deference to his wishes, would renominate him?"

The Governor shook his head and smiled. "Oh, I can't say anything about that," was all the reply he vouchsafed to this question. And he repeated, "Oh, I really—I don't know anything about that."

"It has been stated, Governor, that your re-election is considered by the republican party as an indorsement of the third term."

"Oh, that's nonsense," the Governor replied; "considering that I myself am opposed to the third term. And now, will you kindly excuse me, as I have to leave for Albany?"

The reporter then shook hands with our brave Governor and left him with many thanks.

## THIRD TERM EXCITEMENT IN VERMONT.

RUTLAND, Oct. 21, 1874.

The third term excitement among the "outs" is alarming the "ins." Senator Morrill, of this State, on his way home from Washington a few days ago, through-ticketed via Rutland, took the boat at Whitehall, saying he must go and see Senator Edmunds, at Burlington, who had the President's ear, and beg of him to ask the President to disavow having any desire for a third term, or the republican party would be badly defeated and in a minority in the next House. This information you can rely upon as positively true.

## THE SOUHEGAN BANK ROBBERY.

### The Total Loss—Reward Offered for the Apprehension of the Robbers.

MILFORD, N. H., Oct. 21, 1874.

The accounts of the Souhegan Bank have been thoroughly investigated, and it turns out that the total loss to that institution is $40,000. This amount, with the losses to private individuals, swells the whole amount taken to $120,000. The directors met this morning and offered a reward of $5,000 for the apprehension and conviction of the desperadoes. The board also voted to resume business at once.

The loss the bank has sustained will not impair its capital of $100,000, but it will effectually use up its surplus.

Detectives have discovered no trace of the thieves, who, it is believed, have gone across the country to New York.

## THE WEATHER YESTERDAY.

The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours, in comparison with the corresponding day of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudnut's pharmacy, HERALD Building:—

| | 1873. | 1874. | | 1873. | 1874. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 A. M. | 54 | 50 | 3:30 P. M. | 58 | 64 |
| 6 A. M. | 52 | 49 | 6 P. M. | 53 | 60 |
| 9 A. M. | 53 | 54 | 9 P. M. | 50 | 55 |
| 12 M. | 56 | 61 | 12 P. M. | 50 | 54 |

Average temperature yesterday..... 55¾
Average temperature for corresponding date last year..... 53¾

## APPOINTED VICAR-GENERAL.

QUEBEC, Oct. 21, 1874.

Rev. Mr. Auclair, curate of Notre Dame de Quebec, has been appointed Vicar-General of the dioceses Remousky and Sherbrooke.

## THE LOUISIANA CONTROVERSY.

### A Crucial Letter from Judge Black, of Pennsylvania.

### THE PRESIDENT COMPLETELY WRONG.

### He Had No Shadow of Right to Interfere.

### Alexander H. Stephens Disagrees with Mr. O'Conor.

### JUDGE BLACK'S LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I have read with great interest, as well as admiration, the opinions of Mr. Reverdy Johnson and Mr. Charles O'Conor, on the situation of Louisiana; and I will now give you my own views on the same subject. But having no time for elaboration, I state conclusions rather than arguments.

The President can lawfully use the organized physical force of the Union to control the internal affairs of a State only for one purpose—to defend it against domestic violence, that is, to suppress insurrection against the State government. This he cannot do unless called upon by the Legislature or by the Governor, when the Legislature is not in session. The constitution of the United States and the acts of Congress carefully confine his intervention to cases of this kind. If he may disregard these limits there are no others to hold him, and his power is consequently despotic.

The State is that which stands. Its government is "the powers that be." Its officers are those who actually exercise its authority. It is, therefore, the call of the *de facto* government that the President must respond to. This principle pervades all law, municipal and international, and its observance is absolutely necessary to the preservation of our domestic tranquility, as well as the peace of the world. If the President assists a faction hostile to the existing government, with intent to drive the incumbent magistrates from the seat of power, he excites domestic violence and makes insurrection, instead of suppressing it.

The facts of the Louisiana case, as I think they are universally understood since the publication of Mr. Carpenter's report, are these:—A man named Kellogg aspired to be Governor, but wholly failed of the election. Nevertheless, he claimed the office on grounds which were not only false and fraudulent, but absurd. He had no show of a case before the proper authorities, whose duty it was to decide contested elections; but he laid his claim before a federal Judge, who made an order for his installation. This order was as destitute of all legal force or validity, as if it had been made by the first negro that Kellogg might have picked up in the street. I take it for granted that the Judge and all the federal officers, civil and military, as well as Kellogg himself, knew that it was utterly void. It would be no charity to suppose either of them ignorant enough to believe that a Judge of the United States Court had any authority or jurisdiction of the subject matter, or any right whatever to intermeddle with the business. Nevertheless the marshal and the commander of the federal troops, acting in pursuance of previous instructions from Washington, and with the approbation of the President himself, undertook to execute the order, expelled the officers of the existing government and put the pretender and his adherents into full possession of the State.

Political power unlawfully obtained is always abused. The State was insulted, oppressed and plundered until it became "a vexation even to hear the report thereof." To gorge the rapacity of the rulers property and capital were so burdened with taxes that a general confiscation of every honest man's lands, goods and money would hardly have been a more grievous infliction. This was borne by the body of the people so patiently that the spirit of their forefathers seemed dead within them. Their tameness was excusable only by two reasons. In the first place a successful resistance was impossible while the usurper was surrounded and guarded by the bayonets of the federal army; and second, they looked forward to the election as a peaceful remedy for their wrongs. But this last hope left them when they saw that Kellogg was arranging the machinery of the registration to cheat them by a false count of the votes and thus keep them in subjection for an indefinite time. Convinced that they must rise by their own unassisted strength or be forever fallen, they resorted to the *ultima ratio*, threw off the shackles and placed the supreme executive power in the hands of the man who had been legally elected nearly two years before. Never was revolution more just or conducted with greater prudence. Its success was complete; the baseless fabric of tyranny fell at the first rush of the popular movement; its chief absconded, his familiars slunk away from his ruined fortunes, and all over the State the official instruments of corruption yielded their places to the appointees of the lawful government. Louisiana was free and every friend of liberty and justice in or out of the State rejoiced over the fact. But the President wrathfully determined to put the yoke back again on the neck of the State. To that end he sought out Kellogg in his hiding place; again expelled the true Governor and again forced the submission of the people to the same adventurer whom he had aided before.

The unconstitutional character of the President's first act, when he overthrew the then existing government and put Kellogg in the executive chair by mere force, is admitted both by Mr. Johnson and O'Conor. It would have been wonderful, indeed, if either of them had attempted to justify so plain and palpable a violation of the fundamental law. But they differ apparently about the President's duty at the time of his second intervention. I concur with Mr. Johnson in the opinion that after Kellogg was in the President could not turn him out; he was *de facto* Governor; and no matter whether he became so by fraud, or force, or accident, the fact of possession was all that the President could lawfully see. Of course, I dissent from Mr. O'Conor with all the cautious difference due to his great name; but if he means to say that General Grant had a right to pull down the *de facto* government of Kellogg whenever he repented his own act in setting it up, I venture to put in a denial. Remember, the President has no right to turn anybody out, nor even to inquire how any actual incumbent got in. To overthrow one *de facto* government because he had wrongfully overthrown another would, instead of atoning for the first error, only double the blunder. He cannot play fast and loose with the liberties of a State, nor, like Pharoah, let the people go free or hold them in bondage according as the Lord hardens his heart or terrifies him with plagues.

But I respectfully submit that this point on which Mr. Johnson and Mr. O'Conor divide is not in the case. General Grant never intervened to protect a *de facto* government in Louisiana. His last act, like the first one, was a war against the existing authorities. Kellogg never had any title except his naked possession. That was enough while it lasted; but every vestige of power had left him when the federal troops took him from his hiding place in the Custom House and placed him a second time in the executive chair. The McEnery government was at that time as completely established as if its power had dated a century back. It was the government *de jure*. That did not do it much practical good while its officers were prevented by the military force of the usurper from exercising their functions; but when the people took their business into their own hands and put their elected rulers into their proper places, then the legal title and the actual possession united in the same persons. It is mere folly to say that Kellogg was Governor an instant after that. The forcible reinstatement of him was an insurrection against the proper authority of the State as much as his first installment.

If I am right thus far, it follows that General Grant on both occasions committed a grave violation of his constitutional duty, in a matter vitally affecting the rights of the States and the liberties of the people. Of his conduct there can certainly be no decent pretence of justification, and, so far as I can perceive, no reasonable excuse, unless he can say that his legal advisers imposed upon him by a false reading of the constitution.

Mr. O'Conor refers to Congress as the paramount authority, whose recognition of the Kellogg government would have bound the President and all others. The opinion of the Court in Luther vs. Borden speaks of the jurisdiction which Congress has over the subject, but does not define it. I know of no power in that body except to prescribe by general rules the manner in which the President shall perform the duty assigned by the constitution to him, and I do not think that either Mr. O'Conor or Chief Justice Taney could have meant anything else. It is certain that Congress could not legislate Kellogg in or out of office, and its "recognition" would no more strengthen his title than it would add a cubit to his stature. Those Senators were wise and faithful men who refused to vote for Mr. Carpenter's bill, because it was an unconstitutional interference with a matter which belonged to the people of the State exclusively.

J. S. BLACK.

YORK, Pa., Oct. 19, 1874.

### A. H. STEPHENS' LETTER.

The following political letter from the eminent historian and statesman of Georgia will be read with interest:—

LIBERTY HALL, CRAWFORDSVILLE, Oct. 11, 1874.

MR. P. BYRDSALL:—

MY DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 8th inst., with enclosure of Mr. Charles O'Conor's letter, &c., was received this morning. Your previous letter, in acknowledgment of my Greensboro speech, was also duly received. I am obliged to you for both. I had seen Mr. O'Conor's letter, but I do not agree with Mr. O'Conor's premises or conclusions.

The *Tribune* is central to the core, so also is the *Sun*, and the *World* pretends to be democratic, but is democratic only on radical principles. I had, however, seen Mr. O'Conor's letter published in several of our Southern papers. I do not agree with Mr. O'Conor in his premises or conclusions. He sets out with asserting that Grant had decided that "Kellogg was duly elected." Now, in point of fact, Grant has never decided any such thing. After Kellogg brought his suit in the Federal Court, as he had a right to do under the abominable Enforcement act, so called, all that Grant did was to aid in the enforcement of the judicial process, as it was his duty to do under the act. He had no right to inquire either into the correctness of that judgment of the Court or the validity of the election of either Kellogg or McEnery. These were questions he had no right to decide, and he said so. He only enforced judicial process. Mr. Reverdy Johnson made a similar blunder; even Mr. O'Conor. He says Grant decided that Kellogg was duly elected. This decision, he says, was wrong; but, having made it, he could not correct it. On this point Johnson has the advantage, because the truth is they are both wrong in their premises and both quite a botch in their conclusions. In my opinion Grant did nothing but extend the act of Congress. It has been my effort for two years to keep the democracy from the great error of making an improper issue with Grant on this Louisiana muddle. The strength of the democracy lies in the truth. What they should assail is the radical construction of acts of Congress, from which all these troubles spring, and not this man who executes the acts of Congress as they stand upon the statute book.

The great strength of the democracy in 1876 is an arraignment of the radical party for all the utter failures attending the reconstruction so called, and a grand centennial slogan, arousing the masses from one extent of the country to the other in support of the principles announced by Mr. Jefferson and the Congress of the States, on the 4th of July, 1776. "Down with usurpations and up with the constitution!" should be the battle cry in 1876. Yours truly,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

## THE LECTURE SEASON.

An address will be delivered this evening before the annual meeting of the Medico-Legal Society, to be held at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, by R. Ogden Doremus, M. D., LL.D., Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College and chemist to the society, "On the duties of members of the medical and legal professions, toxicologists, pharmaceutists and county officers in cases of poisoning, and the necessity of proper legislation on the subject." An election of officers will be held and other business transacted.

Mr. Bayard Taylor will deliver a lecture on "Ancient Egypt" this evening at the Academy of Music.

Dr. T. S. Lambert will lecture on "Woman" this evening at the Methodist Episcopal church, corner of Bedford and Morton streets.

Rev. Patrick Toner, of Towanda, Pa., repeated last night, at the Cooper Institute, his brilliant lecture on "The Poets of Ireland," which was listened to with enthusiastic approbation by a large auditory. The proceeds are for the benefit of a weak and struggling church at Towanda.

The American Society of Civil Engineers met last evening at No. 63 William street and listened to a valuable paper from Professor Robert H. Thurston on the caloric value of wet fuel. A general discussion followed on the education of civil engineers, as treated of in a recent paper by Mr. Thomas C. Clarke.

## CARRIAGE MAKERS' CONVENTION.

The third annual meeting of the Carriage Builders' National Association was held yesterday at the St. Nicholas Hotel. The attendance comprised almost every member of the association. The Convention was called to order by Hon. C. P. Kimball, lately the democratic candidate for Governor of Maine. The association re-elected Mr. Kimball President; Mr. Clement Studebaker, Vice President; Mr. Wilder H. Pray, Secretary and Treasurer, and the old Executive Committee. That committee reported, through Mr. John W. Britton, its chairman, among other recommendations, a proposal to memorialize Congress for a reduction of tariff upon carriage makers' materials.

Ex-Governor J. R. Hawley, of Connecticut, was introduced and urged the association to take an active part in the National Centennial Exhibition. He said that foreign carriage manufacturers have already asked for space for their work at the Exhibition, and the American carriage makers ought not to allow themselves to be beaten. Ex-Governor Biglow and Mr. A. S. Goshorn also spoke in the same strain. The association decided to appoint a committee of five to confer with the Centennial Exhibition Commissioners.

Mr. Britton read to the Convention a letter, drafted by the Executive Committee, in response to a letter of congratulation and advice received last year from the Carriage Builders' Association of London, England. After several speeches arrangements were made for the collection of trade statistics by a special committee and the Convention adjourned.

## DISCIPLINE ON THE ROANOKE.

A story has circulated lately that there is a lack of discipline on board the United States iron-clad Roanoke, which now lies in the North River; that the sailors are not punished if they get drunk, and are not provided with enough food. An investigation proves the report untrue in every particular. The discipline on the Roanoke is perfect; the officers expect it, and, as all the sailors have been in the navy for years they obey it easily. The Roanoke is regarded by sailors as a pleasant place for duty, and some of her crew are shipped as landsmen, though they have before rated as able seamen. Her officers, too, are men of high character, who would not permit the sailors to be badly treated. The scandalous story is attributed to a fellow who was lately discharged from the Roanoke as a "skuiker."

## THE LOST STEAMER WINANTS—ALL HOPE ABANDONED.

No further news has been received in this city respecting the lost steamer A. Winants, of which a full account was given in Tuesday's HERALD. The Coast Wrecking Company, who owned her, have given up all hopes of her, being under the impression that she foundered on the 27th of September off Charleston, during a terrific hurricane. The treasurer of the company believes that the wreck, bottom up, evidently a river steamer, seen off Savannah by the steamer Saragossa, was their lost vessel. This was reported at Savannah on the 3d of October last.

The Coast Wrecking Company intend to send their steamer Lackawanna to Key West to-morrow to take the place of the Winants.